

Minutes of the Regular Meeting
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, August 6, 2003
HR Pinnacle Room
7575 E. Main Street

Present: Chairperson Shelley Anderson, Vice-chair Leigh Hersey, Commissioners David Fortney, Bill Heckman, Nona Oliver, Stephen Owens, Lynn Timmons Edwards

Staff Present: Debra Baird, Terry Erickson, Joe Gross, Katherine Hutton Raby, Ron King, Steve Lehmann, Bill Murphy, Doug Nesselroad, Doug Nohren, Don Penfield, Chris Thom, Alison Tymkiw, and Judy Weiss

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Anderson called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

Chairperson Anderson asked everyone to observe a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Commissioner Timmons Edwards noted that in paragraph 2 of the Director's Report, she made in "inquiry" regarding the bands at the concert and the noise level. She noted that it may come down to not booking a band with a brass section as that may have caused the concerns.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards moved the minutes of the regular meeting of June 18, 2003 be approved as corrected. Commissioner Fortney seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF CURRENT EVENTS (A.R.S. § 38-431.02(K))

Debra Baird, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Director, updated the Commission on the status of events and activities of the Parks, Recreation, & Facilities Division. New park signage is in place on the northeast corner of the south parking lot driveway at Indian School Park. This is the City's prototype for future Park signs. The Eldorado Pool Grand Opening will be held on August 9th from 4 – 9 p.m. Over 10,000 people attended Mighty Mud Mania on July 25th at Chaparral Park. The event was featured in the 7/28 issue of Newsweek Magazine. At Chaparral Park, staff is combining the ADA work, curb cutting and re-stripping of spaces with the fence barrier work to separate the east and west parking lots. Core drilling was completed on Tuesday for the fence posts. Fabrication of the fence panels is completed and they are being painted. The fence panels should be installed and the ADA issues completed by the end of August.

Bill Murphy, Service Manager, updated the Commission on the progress of the field maintenance work being done as a result of the City Council approval of the funds to maintain school district fields.

Commissioner Heckman asked if the Eldorado Pool Project was completed on schedule. Ms. Baird said that it was actually completed ahead of schedule. The grand opening was always scheduled for August.

RENEWAL OF THE URBAN FISHING PROGRAM INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

Doug Nohren, Senior Recreation Coordinator, presented the City of Scottsdale Resolution #6338 and the Intergovernmental Agreement #2003-124-COS between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the City of Scottsdale to renew the Urban Fishing Program. Staff and the Legal Department of the City of Scottsdale have reviewed the document. Mr. Nohren and Eric Swanson, Urban Fishing Program Manager, gave an overview of the program and Scottsdale's involvement.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked if, as a result of the new agreement, the City would maintain the water quality. Mr. Nohren said the City is doing that now. Several of the revisions were things the City is already doing and were included in the current agreement. Mr. Swanson said this is an Operational Plan that will be used by all Urban Fishing Programs in the state, some of which are brand new to the program and not familiar with all of the revisions.

Vice-chair Hersey asked about the fact sheet showing license sales and participation levels. Mr. Swanson said participation in Scottsdale has stabilized and was higher in the senior population than other areas.

Commissioner Heckman asked how many lakes are there in the state. Mr. Swanson said there are 18 locations in 10 different cities. Commissioner Heckman asked where the fish come from. Mr. Swanson said from different hatcheries in the country.

Chairperson Anderson asked if the warmth causes the fish to die. Mr. Swanson said it does not but is an extra stress factor. Resident fish do well but those that come in from out of state may be affected. The fish are inspected at the time of stocking to make sure they are healthy.

Commissioner Timmons moved to recommend the City Council adopt Resolution #6338 and authorize the Intergovernmental Agreement #2003-124-COS between the Arizona Game and Fish Department and the City of Scottsdale to provide funding for the stocking of fish at Chaparral Lake for the years 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06. Commissioner Heckman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

PIMA PARK LAND TRADE

Alison Tymkiw, CPM Project Manager, presented the proposed land trade that has been negotiated for acquiring sufficient property on which to build an addition to the existing water treatment facility adjacent to Pima Park. The land trade involves a 1.3-acre portion of Pima Park.

Vice-chair Hersey asked what the time line was for the public outreach. Ms. Tymkiw said it will be done immediately as part of re-zoning process. There was one public meeting held in December 2001. Vice-chair Hersey asked if there is a time constraint on the revocable lease on the lower section. Ms. Tymkiw said it is 6 months. Ron King, Asset Management Coordinator, confirmed that a 6-month notification must be given to remove the revocable lease. Vice-chair Hersey asked if the new bus turnaround would be worked out. Ms. Tymkiw said it would be.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked if the current vacant lot is just dirt and if so, would it be possible to get the dirt turned into something more esthetically pleasing. Ms. Tymkiw said it is dirt and is shielded by a thick layer of oleanders. Commissioner Timmons Edwards thought we may be able to make it useful for recreation purposes until such time as MicroSemi needs to expand. Ron King, Asset Management Coordinator, said that possibility can be raised with MicroSemi. There would be budget issues for the City to maintain the site. Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked, if MicroSemi expands, can there be a stipulation that they be held to a high standard as to landscaping. Mr. King said it would have to go through the public process in order to be approved and that issue could be addressed then.

Commissioner Owens asked who is paying for the new facility. Ms. Tymkiw said the City is funding the treatment facility. The three companies that were held responsible by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the contamination are required to treat the water to drinking water standards. The reverse osmosis (RO) process will create a better quality of water and eliminate the problems users are seeing with scaling in their pipes and household appliances. Commissioner Owens asked if all of the water would be pumped to RO treatment facility. Ms. Tymkiw said only a portion will be treated. A study was done to determine the quantity of water that needs to be treated to decrease the hardness in the water. After treatment it will then be re-blended with regularly treated water. Commissioner Owens asked what the estimated costs are for the RO plant. Ms. Tymkiw said the cost is estimated at \$8 million. The land trade will save the City about \$1 million in land acquisition.

Commissioner Heckman asked how long the current owner has been leasing to MicroSemi. Mr. King said they have been there about 20 years. Commissioner Heckman noted the lease rights would probably have to continue under new ownership. He noted this is a major entrance to Scottsdale because of the 101. As you drive in it is not our best face forward and not a very attractive building. What are the numbers that would indicate they should stay where they are currently. Katherine Hutton Raby, Economic Development Manager, said given the type of infrastructure, it is a very expensive building. They are currently employ about 250 people. This is the highest profitable facility they have. The company has moved some of their operation to Taiwan, but they do not plan to relocate this plant at all. There could be as many as 400 people employed at this plant at its peak use. They currently have another facility in Colorado and are looking at relocating that site to Scottsdale. They are the largest clone chip manufacturer in the United States. They have been at this location since 1983 and are

committed to Scottsdale. There have been no improvements to the Scottsdale site because of the fluctuations in the Colorado facility. The City needs to continue to support them as 45% of their employees live in Scottsdale. We can work on the building aesthetics when the time comes for expansion. Commissioner Heckman wanted to echo Commissioner Timmons Edwards' comments to make sure that in the event of expansion, the City require a substantial setback and site beautification improvements. Ms. Hutton Raby said that anything done to the facility is subject to the Development Review process. Commissioner Heckman would like the City to make the gateways inviting.

Vice-chair Hersey had visited the site and notice a heavy smell of chlorine. Will this be eliminated with the new treatment plant? Ms. Tymkiw said the RO treatment will not affect the chlorine that is associated with the existing facility.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked if this would come back to the Commission for action. Ms. Baird said staff was directed to pursue this by the City Council it will not come before the Commission. Any concerns that the Commission has expressed tonight will be shared with the City Council.

Chairperson Anderson asked if the residents across the street on Thomas were aware that the park that is there now could be changed in the future. Ms. Tymkiw said they would be invited to comment on the project and the impact of the land trade as a part of the public process, which would be starting soon. However, information regarding this project was being given first to the Parks and Recreation Commission prior to any further public notification. Chairperson Anderson wants good feelings from the residents and the owners of the parcel. Ms. Tymkiw said all of that will be a part of the zoning process.

PARTNERSHIP FUNDING REQUESTS

Steve Lehmann, Senior Recreation Coordinator, presented 3 Partnership Funding requests for Commission approval.

Arcadia Scottsdale United Soccer Club: Field renovations on fields at Cochise Elementary School including replacement of damaged sprinkler heads, adding top soil, leveling, hydro mulching, aerate, fertilize and pest control. Staff is recommending \$9,587.50 be allocated to this project.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked where was the source of matching money from the group. Scott Graham, Arcadia Scottsdale Unified Soccer Club, noted their club is the least expensive in registration fees. They have a large membership with about 2,400 kids playing with 1,300 using this facility on Saturdays. The club runs on volunteers and doesn't have many expenses.

Commissioner Owens said it is a worthy project and we should help to fund it. He asked how long was this request pending and, by going ahead with the project, did the group take the risk that it would not be funded. Mr. Graham said it took some time to prepare the request. There was a window of opportunity that arose to complete the work so the group took advantage of that. Ms. Baird said the group did take a risk and Staff did not ensure them that it was going to be funded. There was a time last year that the Partnership Funds could go away. The Council didn't want any requests to be heard until the Task Force Report was completed. The group did take a chance and we didn't assure them that the funds would be there. Mr. Lehmann said all of this was in the same time frame that the project was going on so they had to move forward or they would have missed the opportunity. The fields were not playable. Mr. Lehmann said it is not Staff's intention to do retroactive requests. This is a unique situation.

Commissioner Oliver said she was curious about the water. Mr. Graham said the fields had to be heavily watered the first 2 weeks after the grass was laid. It had to be watered constantly. Commissioner Oliver asked if it was secondary water. Mr. Graham said it was not. Mr. Lehmann noted that the School District pays the water bills. Mr. Graham said this was a one-time thing that needed to be done during the initial planting. Commissioner Oliver asked if the groups clean up after themselves. Mr. Graham said they do and have placed trashcans at the site. The group pays a youth and his dad to put everything away and lock everything up. The field is used on Sundays by drop in groups and they do not pick up after themselves. Commissioner Oliver asked if we were going to put up any signs. Ms. Baird said Staff does review the policies with all the groups when they make reservations. This group is very good about clean up. We do have other areas where there are issues and we are trying to deal with them.

Chairperson Anderson feels that reimbursement is a better way to go in some respects. If the group is paying out of pocket they find cheaper ways to do things. We might have even saved money. Mr. Graham said they do everything as close to the bone as they can.

Commissioner Fortney moved to approve the Partnership Funding request by the Arcadia Soccer Club in the amount of \$9,587.50. Commissioner Heckman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Desert Foothills Little League: Field renovations on south ball field at Thunderbird Park including new backstop, player areas, irrigation modifications and infield upgrades. Recommending \$15,000.00

Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked if there is someone here representing the group. Mr. Lehmann said their representative had a previous commitment. This request has been on the table for a long time. Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked what is the source of the matching funds. Mr. Lehmann said they raise funds through registration fees. Volunteers run the group and they also operate a concession stand. There are donations and sponsorships. They have a field improvement fund. This group has done a project at Aztec without asking for matching funds. Commissioner Timmons Edwards recalls some groups raising funds from commercial advertising and she has concerns about that. Commissioner Owens noted this request was brought forward to staff before he was on the Commission. The group has had the money for some time. They run a concession stand and so some advertising in the majors. They also get donations from parents. This is a worthwhile project and is badly needed.

Chairperson Anderson asked if we just hand over the money. Mr. Lehmann said we don't disperse any money until something has been done and if it is less than estimate we match ½ of the total. The groups provide proof of payment. It can work two ways – the group can give the City money and we do the project, or, they can get a contractor and have the project done themselves. Chairperson Anderson noted the costs could be less if the group did the project. Mr. Lehman noted that labor provided by the group members is not reimbursable.

Commissioner Heckman asked what happens if there is a cost overrun. Mr. Lehmann said the City does not pay over the amount authorized on the request. Groups have come back and requested additional funding and it has been done but first the request would have to come to the Commission for approval.

Commissioner Fortney moved the Partnership Funding request for Desert Foothills Little League be approved in the amount of \$15,000. Commissioner Heckman seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Arcadia Scottsdale United Soccer Club; Arizona Youth Lacrosse; McCormick Ranch Little League: New field development on Cochise Elementary School. Project is in conjunction with the School District to grade the 8acre area, put in fencing, install irrigation system and plant grass for baseball, soccer and lacrosse. Recommending \$70,000.00

Commissioner Heckman asked if the school took the existing fields to build the new school. Mr. Lehmann said they didn't take a tremendous amount of field space, but they did take some. Mr. Graham said they relocated the soccer fields. Commissioner Heckman asked how many net fields are we gaining. Mr. Lehmann said the plan is for 2 full size soccer fields and 2 new ballfields on either corner. Commissioner Heckman asked if there was any stipulation for a target completion date. Mr. Lehmann said the intention is to move forward right away and get the grass in prior to the weather getting too cold.

Commissioner Heckman asked if new funding moves into this program over time. If all tonight's requests are approved we are taking over half of what is there. Judy Weiss, Manager, said this fund has been replenished every July 1st with about \$70,000. We also have the \$3 fee that is going into this fund that will pay for maintenance of fields in the future. The Tourism and Sports Authority is providing grant money that we are applying for. We will find out if the grant was successful in December but there are no guarantees. Commissioner Heckman believes this is a fantastic program.

Commissioner Timmons Edwards asked, because of complexity of this project, she would like to know that the City will manage it and the groups give the money to the City. Mr. Lehmann said if it is done that way the City has to go through a lengthy procurement process. Mr. Lehmann noted that, from a project management standpoint, the City and School District will be right in there. We have a very big stake in this project. Commissioner Timmons Edwards noted, with no signatures on the documents, wouldn't it be better for this item to come back to

the Commission in about 30 days. Mr. Lehmann said we do have signed documents from all groups defining what they would provide. Chairperson Anderson asked if we do have signatures. Mr. Lehmann said there is a single document that is signed but that was done recently (after the Commission packets were mailed). The money will not be paid until the work is accomplished.

Chairperson Anderson asked why this was on one request. Ms. Baird indicated the project has several different partners.

Commissioner Timmons feels that the Commission would abandon its stewardship responsibilities. She feels this is a great project but is a little nervous that this may be a premature request. Mr. Graham said all the groups have discussed their responsibility to the projects and concluded they each have various contacts to complete it. The groups can negotiate savings that the City may not be able to do. Ms. Baird said the documents can be provided to the Commission and Staff is confident with the numbers work out.

Commissioner Fortney noted he is comfortable with project and who is paying what. It looks like a good plan and being able to take advantage of this is great for the City. To purchase land would be expensive and this is a great opportunity. He does have one concern - the City is spending \$75,000 - please work on a plan to maintain the site. Don't come back in 2 years and find it looks bad.

Commissioner Heckman moved to approve the request for Partnership Funding for the amount of \$75,000 subject obtaining to all required signatures by all parties. Commissioner Fortney seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

OPEN CALL TO THE PUBLIC (A.R.S. § 38-431.02)

Chairperson Anderson asked for any items from the floor.

Commissioner Owens would like to hear more on the impact of \$3 fee on the user organizations. He would like staff to have some of the groups come and talk about the issue and what it means to them. Ms. Baird said that could be put on a future agenda and Staff can provide the best estimates. Commissioner Owens wondered if there is any way to have Council look at it again. Commissioner Fortney said someone should be present to speak to the benefits of the fee.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Heckman moved to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Timmons Edwards seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

With no further business to be brought before the Commission, Chairperson Anderson adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Ruth Johnson, Recording Secretary.

Meets established criteria.



Debra Baird, Director
Parks, Recreation & Facilities